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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,583	01/22/2004	Liu Qing	089229.00130	4262
32294 7590 05/08/2008 SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. 8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE 14TH FLOOR VIENNA, VA 22182-6212				
			EXAMINER SAM PHIRIN	
			ART UNIT 2619	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/08/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,583

Applicant(s)

QING ET AL.

Examiner

Phirin Sam

Art Unit

2619

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 35-38, 43 and 44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32, 34 and 39-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 33 and 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 25-28 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,915,345 (hereinafter referred as “Tummala”).

Regarding claim 25, Tummala discloses an intermediate node for redirecting service requests within a domain of a network (see Fig. 4, elements 375, 310, and 340), wherein the network comprises a plurality of domains (see Fig. 4, elements 310 and 340), wherein said intermediate node is connected to an entry node, to a database, and to a plurality of service nodes of said domain (see Fig. 4, elements 375, 340, and 310), said intermediate node (see Fig. 4, element 375) comprising:

- (a) receiving means for receiving a service request from a service request input node (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 54-65, where SLA broker receives (or AAA 349 consults with SLA broker 375) the registration request message regarding SLA existing);
- (b) look-up means for performing, based on a received service request, a look-up in a database for obtaining destination information required for forwarding said service request to a destination (see Fig. 4, col. 11, lines 65-67, and col. 12, lines 1-9, where the broker attempts to find a match on target realm in database);

(c) sending means for sending said destination information from an intermediate node to said service request input node (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 60-65, col. 11, lines 40-64, where broker 375 sends the AMR back to AAA server 349).

Regarding amended claim 27, Tummala discloses a service node of a domain of a network, wherein the network comprises a plurality of domains (see Fig. 4, elements 310 and 340, col. 10, lines 15-32), wherein said service node provides services for a user terminal associated with said service node (see Fig. 4, elements 365 and 340, col. 10, lines 32-36), wherein said services are requested by service requests originating from said user terminal (see Fig. 4, element 364, col. 10, lines 37-45), and wherein said service node is connected to an entry node of said domain (see Fig. 4, elements 364 and 360, 340, col. 10, lines 32-36), to an intermediate node of said domain which redirects service requests within said domain, and to service nodes of said domain (see Fig. 4, element 375, col. 11, lines 39-64).

Regarding claim 28, Tummala discloses said service requests comprise AAA service requests associated with authentication, authorization, and accounting purposes functions (see Fig. 4, col. 11, lines 52-67).

Regarding claim 39, Tummala discloses an intermediate node for redirecting service requests within a domain of a network, wherein the network comprises a plurality of domains, wherein said intermediate node is connected to an entry node, to a database, and to a plurality of service nodes of said domain, said intermediate node comprising:

(a) receiving unit configured to receive a service request from a service request input node (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 54-65, where SLA broker receives (or AAA 349 consults with SLA broker 375) the registration request message regarding SLA existing);

- (b) look-up unit configured to perform, based on a received service request, a look-up in a database for obtaining destination information required for forwarding said service request to a destination (see Fig. 4, col. 11, lines 65-67, and col. 12, lines 1-9, where the broker attempts to find a match on target realm in database);
- (c) sending unit configured to send said destination information from an intermediate node to said service request input node (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 60-65, and col. 11, lines 40-64, where broker 375 sends the AMR back to AAA server 349).

Regarding claim 26, Tummala discloses said service requests comprise AAA service requests associated with authentication, authorization, and accounting functions (see Fig. 4, element 349, col. 10, and lines 45-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 29-32, 34, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,915,345 (hereinafter referred as “Tummala”) in view of US 2002/0193110 (hereinafter referred as “Julka”).

Regarding claim 29, Tummala discloses a service request input node within a domain of a network, wherein the network comprises of a plurality of domains (see Fig. 4, elements 310 and 340), wherein said service request input node processes service requests originated from user terminals of said network (see Fig. 4, element 364, col. 10, lines 32-36), and wherein said service request input node is connected to an intermediate node of said domain which redirects service requests within a domain (see Fig. 4, elements 340 and 375), and to a plurality of service nodes of said domain (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 37-53); said service request input node comprising:

- (a) transmitting means for transmitting said received incoming service request to an intermediate node for obtaining destination information required for forwarding a service request to a destination (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 37-65, col. 11, lines 52-59, wherein the terminal 364 sends the a registration request message to the domain 340 and consults with SLA broker 375);
- (b) forwarding means for forwarding said service request, based on said received destination information, from a service request input node to said destination (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 54-67, and col. 11, lines 1-7, after confirming that there is no SLA exists between the domains 340 and 310, the AAA server 349 consults (or forwards this request to SLA broker 375 for identification of the target domain) with SLA broker 375).

Tummala does not disclose redirecting control means for controlling a redirecting of a received incoming service request. However, Julka discloses redirecting control means for controlling a redirecting of a received incoming service request (see Fig. 1, element 32,

paragraph [0026], and claim 35). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine redirecting control means for controlling a redirecting of a received incoming service request teaching by Julka with Tummala. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide to minimize network control traffic overhead read on paragraph [0007]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Julka and Tummala to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 29.

Regarding claim 32, Tummala discloses the service request input node comprises a service node of a domain, and receives service requests from within said domain, and wherein the service request input node further comprises determining means for determining, whether the received incoming service request from within said domain is destined for a user terminal associated with said service node of said domain, and redirects said service request, if said service request is destined for a user terminal associated with said service node of said domain (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 46-67, and col. 11, lines 1-7, 39-67).

Regarding claim 40, Tummala discloses a service request input node within a domain of a network, wherein the network comprises of a plurality of domains, wherein said service request input node processes service requests originated from user terminals of said network, and wherein said service request input node is connected to an intermediate node of said domain which redirects service requests within a domain, and to a plurality of service nodes of said domain, said service request input node comprising:

- (a) transmitting unit configured to transmit said received incoming service request to an intermediate node for obtaining destination information required for forwarding a service request

to a destination (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 37-65, col. 11, lines 52-59, wherein the terminal 364 sends the a registration request message to the domain 340 and consults with SLA broker 375);

(b) forwarding unit configured to forwarding said service request, based on said received destination information, from a service request input node to said destination (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 54-67, and col. 11, lines 1-7, after confirming that there is no SLA exists between the domains 340 and 310, the AAA server 349 consults (or forwards this request to SLA broker 375 for identification of the target domain) with SLA broker 375).

Tummala does not disclose redirecting control unit configured to control a redirecting of a received incoming service request. However, Julka discloses redirecting control unit configured to control a redirecting of a received incoming service request (see Fig. 1, element 32, paragraph [0026], and claim 35). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine redirecting control unit configured to control a redirecting of a received incoming service request teaching by Julka with Tummala. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide to minimize network control traffic overhead read on paragraph [0007]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Julka and Tummala to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 40.

Regarding claim 30, Tummala discloses the service request input node comprises an entry node of a domain, and receives service requests from outside of said domain (see Fig. 4, element 358 and 349, col. 10, lines 37-53).

Regarding claim 31, Tummala discloses said service request input node comprises a service node of a domain, and receives service requests from within said domain (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 37-53).

Regarding claim 34, Tummala discloses said service requests comprise AAA service requests associated with authentication, authorization, and accounting functions (see Fig. 4, element 349, col. 10, lines 45-53).

Regarding claim 41, Tummala discloses a service request input node further comprising: a determining unit configured to determine whether the received incoming service request from within said domain is destined for a user terminal associated with said service node of said domain, and redirects said service request, if said service request is destined for a user terminal associated with said service node of said domain (see Fig. 4, col. 10, lines 45-65, and col. 11, lines 40-67).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-24, 35-38, 43, and 44 are allowed.
7. Claims 33 and 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 25-32 and 34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
(1) US Patent 6,954,442 (Tsirtsis et al) discloses methods and apparatus for using a paging and location server to support session signaling.

(2) US Patent 6,714,987 (Amin et al) discloses architecture for an IP centric distributed network.

(3) US 2002/0176377 (Hamilton) discloses service platform wireless network.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3082. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flexitime Policy (IFP) Program.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571) 272 - 2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2008

By: /Phirin Sam/

Phirin Sam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2619